



Update

News from West Valley City Hall

November 2009

City Council Members:

- Dennis Nordfelt, Mayor
- Corey Rushton, At-Large
- Mike Winder, At-Large
- Carolynn Burt, District 1
- Joel Coleman, District 2
- Russ Brooks, District 3
- Steve Vincent, District 4

Public Meetings

City Council – first four Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission – second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

City Phone Numbers:

- Main Number..... 801-966-3600
- City Manager 801-963-3220
- Police Department . 801-963-3386
- Police Dispatch..... 801-840-4000
- Fire Department 801-963-3336
- Emergency 911
- Family Fitness Center 801-955-4000
- Garbage Questions 801-955-3720
- Storm Water Utility.. 801-963-3448
- Housing Authority . 801-963-3320
- Parks and Rec..... 801-955-4000
- Harman Home 801-966-5540
- Stonebridge Golf Course..... 801-957-9000
- West Ridge Golf Course 801-965-5800
- Graffiti Hot Line 801-963-3467
- Animal Services..... 801-965-5800
- Victims Services 801-963-3223
- Ordinance Compliance 801-963-3289
- Utah Cultural Celebration Center 801-965-5140

Website:
www.wvc-ut.gov

West Valley City Hall
3600 S. Constitution Blvd.
WVC, UT 84119

City Hall Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

A Season of Thanks, A Message from Council Member Carolynn Burt

Today, we are about two weeks removed from the final election of our new Mayor and City Councilmembers in two districts and one At-Large seat. It has been a privilege to work with Mayor Dennis Nordfelt and Councilman Joel Coleman. These are two very wise and dedicated gentlemen who gave the best they had to our city. We on the council will miss their influence very much.

As of this writing, we do not have the results of our recent City elections. However, when this paper gets to your mailbox, those results will be available. My congratulations to the winners and to those candidates who didn't quite win. The citizens of this City are all winners for having the opportunity to get to know all the candidates because of their bravery in putting themselves out there for public scrutiny. Our City election races are a startling contrast to the race in Afghanistan where voter fraud was a problem and a runoff was scheduled. Our new West Valley City officials were elected by less than 16% of the eligible voters, so even if someone won by a landslide, they still won by less than a majority of the registered voters. That statistic makes me so sad and angry. That has got to change. If we don't practice the right to vote it may well be taken away from us bit by little bit.

This Thanksgiving season, pray for, and give thanks to those service men and women in harm's way who are fighting, sometimes at great risk of bodily harm and death, to bring voting rights and other freedoms and privileges to those in far away countries.

Thanksgiving Day is fast approaching. This is a wonderful time to teach our children that Thanksgiving is more than a great turkey feast with your loved ones. I wish all of you a great Thanksgiving holiday with warm family relationships substantially strengthened. I hope to be seeing a great turnout for what may be the last West Valley Christmas Parade and a kickoff to a wonderful, charitable Christmas Season.

Holiday Safety Tips

By Officer Debbie Hulst

Tis the season for theft, the holidays are fast approaching and the hectic holiday season presents an opportunity. Thieves are all around us and will take advantage. It affects all of us, the retailer, the consumer and law enforcement. During this busy time of year, you can take some easy precautions to prevent becoming a victim of theft. Consider these safety tips:

When holiday shopping:

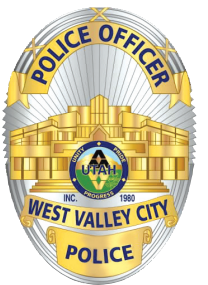
- Don't park in unlit areas at night.
- Put your shopping bags in the trunk. Don't try and cover them with a blanket or shove them under the seats. If feasible, take them home and go back out shopping.

- Don't carry large amounts of cash with you. Keep a close eye on your purse or wallet.
- Keep your credit card numbers at home and in a safe place. That way if you lose or the card gets stolen you can give the police the number, as soon as possible.
- Beware of strangers approaching you in the parking lot. Have your keys ready when you look for your vehicle.

At home:

- If you are going out of town, let at least one neighbor know you are going out of town. If you can make arrangements, have some one stay at your house. You can

- also let your police department know and we will put out an extra patrol.
- Leave lights on or put them on an automatic timer.
 - Make sure your holiday gifts are not visible through the windows and doors of your home.
 - Never say you are not home on your answering machine or voice mail.
- During the holidays don't be a victim, protect yourself and your home from potential crime. Have a safe and happy holiday.



Introducing the West Valley City Fire Department

Greetings! Let us introduce ourselves. We are the West Valley Fire Department and we are all very proud to serve the citizens of West Valley City. Many of you have met and talked with our firefighters at our local schools, WestFest, or other public education programs we are involved with. Our Fire Department personnel are all very active in promoting safety and emergency preparedness in our community. And, when we are needed to provide emergency response to fire or medical emergencies, we will provide our citizens with those

services in a caring and professional manner.

Our Fire Department is made up of 90 firefighters and medical personnel, with three Battalion Chief's and our Administrative staff to oversee the Operations Division. These are the men and women who respond day or night to any emergency for our citizens. They are all well trained professionals who are proud to do their job and often put themselves at risk to help others.

We also have a Prevention Division that oversees fire prevention, inspec-

tion and education in our community. When requested, we can provide informative educational programs for groups and individuals to help keep our community safe and informed on fire safety and emergency preparedness issues.

In the coming months we will be presenting short articles that will hopefully inform and answer some of the questions concerning the West Valley Fire Department and fire safety in your homes. Thank you.





Transformation West: Changing the Face of West Valley City



3500 South Project Scores Early Completion Goal

Improved transportation mobility has arrived for the 3500 South corridor in West Valley City. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and West Valley City invite the public to celebrate substantial completion of the 3500 South reconstruction and widening project between Bangerter Highway and 2700 West. The milestone will be reached over eight months ahead of schedule. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held to mark the event:

Friday, November 20 at 10 a.m.
Granger Park, West Valley City
Southwest corner of 3600 West and 3500 South

The ribbon-cutting agenda includes remarks by West Valley City Mayor Dennis Nordfelt, State Representative Ron Bigelow, Utah Transit Authority Assistant General Manager Michael Allegra and UDOT Deputy Director Carlos Braceras. Special appearances will be made by the Granger High School band, madrigals, cheerleaders and Utah Grizzlies players and mascot, Grizzbee.

"UDOT is pleased to open the road ahead of schedule. 3500 South will be open for business for the busy holiday shopping season," said UDOT Resident Engineer Rodney Ruby. "We appreciate the patience of businesses and residents during construction."

The project widened 3500 South to three general purpose travel lanes in each direction and added two dedicated lanes in the center median for the Utah Transit Authority's first Bus Rapid Transit system.

Other project improvements include the installation of new concrete pavement and curb, gutter and sidewalk. Fiber optic communications and power lines have been buried and other utility lines have been upgraded. The streetscape has been improved with trees and areas of patterned concrete.

Major roadwork will be completed by the ribbon-cutting. Landscaping, installation of decorative lighting and other work off the roadway will be completed with minimal traffic impacts in the weeks following the event.

The Strange Tale of the \$5000 Deck

By Ed Domian, C.B.O.

Recently I sent a West Valley City citizen a Notice of Violation in the mail regarding his exterior deck. The deck came to our attention from a citizen complaint. In this case the home owner had extended the deck for \$200 without the required building permit. When our building inspector drives by the home, it is obvious the deck extension is less than 6 feet from a detached garage on the same property. The home owner is given a 10-day courtesy notice. Our Building Inspection Division never hears from the home owner. I then send the owner a formal Notice of Violation for the illegal deck which lists fines of \$100 per day for the four obvious building code violations. Still our Building Inspection Division receives no calls from the property owner. When the deadline date in the Notice of Violation passes, the home owner is shocked to receive a subpoena to appear in our West Valley City Municipal Court. The court notice states the home owner now owes the City \$5000 in fines, and the fines are still accruing.

A week before the court date our Building Inspection Division finally receives a call from a very distraught home

owner. He informs me that he demolished the illegal structure right after he received the first formal Notice of Violation. He just failed to read the complete letter that states "It is your responsibility to contact our office and request an inspection to show compliance." Now he is at the mercy of the courts. There is no evidence as to when the structure was actually demolished. There are always hundreds of active building code violation cases in varying stages of enforcement in this City. Our office has no idea when any property owner has corrected the building code violations unless you call our office and request an inspection. We will even send an inspector to your property to discuss with you how to bring your property into compliance if requested.

Exterior decks are regulated by the building codes because decks do collapse under the weight of large groups if not properly constructed (Google deck collapse and see all the real sad stories out there). Also, decks are combustible and can transfer fire from one property to the next if built too close to the property lines. But most important, decks more

Harman Senior Recreation Center Activities

4090 South 3600 West
801-965-5822

The Harman Senior Recreation Center is a recreation and activity center for active seniors, offering a variety of fun and exciting classes, outings, and adventures. The Harman Center also offers a variety of informational seminars specifically for seniors.

November

- 19 Ice Cream, 10:30AM
- 19 Granger High Bingo, 1PM
- 20 Thanksgiving Program, 11AM
- 20 Thanksgiving Dinner, Noon
- 24 Magna Choir, 11AM
- 25 Fun Bunch Lunch, 10:45AM
- 26 Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 Closed for Thanksgiving

For a complete calendar, visit
www.wvc-ut.gov/harman.

Weekly Activities

- Chess Club** – Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
- Line Dancing** – Mondays, 12:30 p.m.
- Ceramics** – Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.
- Railroad Club** – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.
- Tai Chi** – Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., \$1 per class
- Bingo** – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45 p.m., Fridays, 10:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
- Billiards and Cards** – Daily

West Valley City
DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that West Valley City's Bulky Waste Program is offered year-round? Residents can visit www.wvc-ut.gov/bulkywaste for information on when their bulky waste is picked up in their area each month. Bulky Waste is a great way to get rid of those bags full of leaves!

than 30 inches above the ground are a dangerous hazard to small children when guardrails are missing or inadequate. Recently I found a deck that was open to a concrete basement walkout stairway below. The small toddler of the home buyers could have fallen 10 feet to the concrete below if I had not counseled the home buyers about the hazard.

Never ignore a notice of building code violations from the City. Always make immediate contact with our Building Inspection Division to discuss your options for bringing your property back into compliance. Always request an inspection when you believe your property is in compliance – even if you think your property was cited in error. Just because your neighbors have no issue with your building project is no reason to assume no building permit is required. Direct all questions to our Building Inspection Division at (801) 963-3283. Never take building code regulations for granted; you can bet we don't!



Calendar

November

- 20 **Sixth Annual Tree of Diversity Exhibit** (through January 4)
Utah Cultural Celebration Center
- 21 **Winter Market: Artisan Treasures from Utah and Around the World**
Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 21 **Turkey Trot 5K Run**
Family Fitness Center, 8 a.m.
- 26 **Thanksgiving**
City Hall Closed

December

- 5 **Breakfast with Santa**
Family Fitness Center, 9 a.m.
- 7 **Christmas Tree Lighting**
Family Fitness Center, 6 p.m.
- 8 **International Christmas Celebration 2009**
The E Center, 7 p.m.
- 9-10 **Miss Margene's Holiday Classic "The Nutcracker"**
Hunter High School, 7 p.m.
- 10-13 **When Elmo Grows Up**
The E Center, 7 p.m. (Thu.-Fri.); 10:30 a.m. (Fri. - Sat.); 2 p.m. (Sat.); 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. (Sun.)
- 12 **Breakfast with Santa**
Family Fitness Center, 9 a.m.
- 14 **Winter Concert Series: Miss Margene's Musical Theatre**
Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 7 p.m.
- 21 **Winter Concert Series: Bonnie Harris**
Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 7 p.m.
- 24 **Christmas Holiday**
City Hall Closed

Send comments, questions and story ideas to:

West Valley City Update
Newsletter
3600 South Constitution Blvd.
West Valley City, Ut 84119

or E-mail:
info@wvc-ut.gov